



Illustration by David H. Wagner;
From 'Guide to the Species of Botrychium in Oregon'

BOTRYCHIUM PEDUNCULOSUM **STALKED MOONWORT**

Stalked moonwort is a perennial with a single above ground frond up to 20 cm tall. It is divided into two segments that share a common stalk. The lower common stalk is usually reddish brown and the upper part of the plant is a dull green. The mostly sterile segment is conspicuously stalked and once to twice pinnatifid with up to five pairs of primary pinnae. The pinnae have irregular lobes and vary from pinnatifid to bifid to narrowly fan shaped and the lower ones often bear sporangia. The fertile segment is longer than the sterile segment and bears grape-like sporangia that contain thousands of spores; larger plants usually have two large ascending lateral branches. Fronds mature in mid-July to September.

BOTRYCHIUM PEDUNCULOSUM is most similar to *B. PINNATUM* and *B. HESPERIUM*, which may also have reddish common stalks and pinnatifid pinnae. It differs from *B. PINNATUM* by having dull green vs. bright green color and leathery vs. papery texture, and differs from *B. HESPERIUM* by having the lowest pinnae pair about the same size as, rather than conspicuously larger than the adjacent pair. It differs from both by having a long stalked sterile frond segment. Positive identification of moonworts depends on the use of technical keys and on comparison with silhouette outlines of verified specimens, often complicated by morphological variation within and between populations, and the presence of several species growing together at the same site.